

**The 2018 Annual Conference on Citizenship:**

# **IT'S YOUR DEMOCRACY!**

Conference Guide

**@NCoC**

**#ItsYourDemocracy**

**NCoC.org**

**Greetings,**

We are excited and proud to be welcoming you to the 2018 Annual Conference on Citizenship. This year's conference carries the theme of "It's Your Democracy!," one that has, perhaps, never been timelier for our nation.

Our goal for "It's Your Democracy" is to inspire, engage, and inform all involved. Part of the mission for the gathering is for our invited speakers to frame up democracy in today's world and meaningfully engage with you all. In partnership with the Bridge Alliance Education Fund, we've designed an agenda that we're excited for you to join. During the conference, we will be learning from and inspired by a remarkable array of active citizens working to renew and refresh our democratic practices, our democratic structures, our democratic culture, our democratic beliefs, and our democratic hopes for the future of our country. We'll be recognizing outstanding citizens, veterans, and civic innovators at the community, municipal, and national levels. And, we will be hearing from partners who are turning their Civic Health Index Reports into launching pads for civic renewal in their communities.

We believe that this year's conference might be one of our best yet, and that isn't solely due to our tremendous list of speakers – it's also due to you. This year's gathering convenes activists and reformers, stalwarts and newcomers, leaders and followers, bystanders now acting, and people who are talking and listening carefully for the pulse of our civic life. We hope you find time to engage one another, hear each other and take back lessons learned. The knowledge of our group is deep and wide. Take this opportunity to network and help strengthen what is already an impressive network of partners.

Once again, we thank you for attending the 2018 Annual Conference on Citizenship and welcome to the event!

Sincerely,

**Sterling K. Speirn**

Chief Executive Officer

The National Conference on Citizenship

## **Table of Contents**

Conference Agenda	04
NCoC Board of Directors	11
NCoC Staff	16
Honorees	18
Keynote Speakers	20
Speakers	21
Sponsors	34

# Conference Agenda

Day 1

October 17<sup>th</sup>

**8:00am - 4:30pm**

*Salon N, O, P*

**Bridge Alliance Education Fund Summit**

Bridge Alliance Education Fund is hosting an invitation-only summit to design a coordinated national strategy for healthy self-governance. Invitees include many representatives in the democracy-strengthening field, including members of the Bridge Alliance, foundations, journalists, researchers and more.

**12:00pm - 4:00pm**

*George Washington  
Room*

**Civic Health Index Working Group**

During this pre-conference session a group of leaders will meet to discuss the Civic Health Index and how it can play a role in transforming communities.

**5:00pm**

*Salon I, J, K*

**Opening Reception**

**6:00pm**

*Liberty Salon  
L and M*

**Dinner**

**Welcome and Opening Remarks:**

**Sterling Speirn**, NCoC Chief Executive Officer

# Conference Agenda

Day 1 (continued)

October 17<sup>th</sup>

**6:40pm - 7:05pm**

*Liberty Salon  
L and M*

**Session #1:** HOOAH Award Ceremony for  
Outstanding Post-military Service by a Veteran

**Introduction by:** Michael Weiser, NCoC Chair Emeritus

**Recipient:** Brenda “Sue” Fulton, Chair & Chief Administrator, NJ Motor Vehicle Commission

The HOOAH Award is to honor amazing patriots who are empowering the next generation of military veterans to continue to serve beyond their time in uniform. Recipients of the HOOAH Award include the Honorable Tulsi Gabbard, General (Ret.) Stanley McChrystal, Chris Marvin, Eric Hilleman, and Derek Blumke.

# Conference Agenda

Day 1 (continued)

October 17<sup>th</sup>

**7:10pm - 7:50pm**

*Liberty Salon  
L and M*

**Session #2:** Keynote Speakers James and Deborah Fallows

**Keynote Speakers:** James and Deborah Fallows, authors of *Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America*

**Moderated By:** Garrett Graff, NCoC Board Chair

James and Deborah Fallows will share reflections from their recent bestselling book, *Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America*, including local stories and voices from around the country that truly deserve a larger audience. They write that, “despite the economic crisis of the preceding decade and the social tensions of which every American is aware, most parts of the United States that we visited have been doing better, in most ways, than most Americans realize.” Their ongoing project, #ThisIsMyTown, demonstrates across widely varying people and places an encouragingly consistent sense that our fellow citizens fervently believe that it is, in fact, their democracy.

**7:55pm - 8:00pm**

*Liberty Salon  
L and M*

**Closing Remarks**

Day 2

October 18<sup>th</sup>

**7:30am - 8:30am**

**Continental Breakfast**

**8:30am - 8:40am**

*Liberty Salon  
L and M*

**Welcome and Introduction**

Sterling Speirn, NCoC Chief Executive Officer

# Conference Agenda

Day 2 (continued)

October 18<sup>th</sup>

**8:40am - 9:00am**

*Liberty Salon  
L and M*

**Session #3:** Reinventing Citizenship

**Introduction by:** Sterling Speirn, NCoC Chief Executive Officer

**Presenter:** Mark Gerzon, Author of *The Reunited States of America*

Mark Gerzon, author of *The Reunited States of America*, will reflect on citizenship and democracy in our current national landscape.

**9:05am - 9:50am**

*Liberty Salon  
L and M*

**Session #4:** To Make a Citizen

**Presenter:** Anne Snyder, author of the upcoming book, *The Fabric of Character*

**Moderated By:** Sterling Speirn, NCoC Chief Executive Officer

Author Anne Snyder reports on her research and forth-coming book, *The Fabric of Character: A Wise Giver's Guide to Renewing Our Social and Moral Landscape*.

**9:55am - 10:40am**

*Liberty Salon L and M*

**Session #5:** Youth Civic Engagement

**Introduction and Moderation by:** Gail Kitch, NCoC Board Member

**Presenters:**

**Fred Hinojosa** (A+ Student Voice Team)

**Gabby Huffman** (A+ Student Voice Team)

**Jenny Gonzalez** (Vote16DC and Vote16USA)

**Tiffany Misseme** (Vote16DC and Vote16USA)

**Alik Schier** (Vote16DC and Vote16USA)

High School students from the District of Columbia and Alabama report on their efforts to lower the voting age to 16 and addressing equity issues related to mental health access and career exploration opportunities.



**IT'S YOUR DEMOCRACY!**

# Conference Agenda

Day 2 (continued)

October 18<sup>th</sup>

**10:45am - 11:25am**

*Liberty Salon L and M*

**Session #6:** Money in and out of Politics

**Introduction and Moderation by:** Phil Duncan, NCoC Board Member

**Presenters:**

**Karen Lieberman**, Coalition for Campaign Finance Reform

**John Bonifaz**, Free Speech for People

This panel discussion will focus on campaign finance reform and feature a case study from citizens in action in St. Petersburg, Florida.

**11:30am - 11:45am**

*Salon I, J K*

**Networking / Coffee Break**

**11:45am - 12:30pm**

*Liberty Salon L and M*

**Session #7:**

The Civvys: American Civic Collaboration Awards

**Introduction by:** Big Tent Nation's Caroline Kibanoff and Brian Clancy

Civvys seek a range of projects, programs, and people that use civic collaboration best practices to achieve real results in facilitating dialogue, enabling cross-partisan action, or putting civility and community above ideology.

The Civvys will be awarded in four categories:

**National:** These projects are nationwide in scope and audience.

**Local:** These projects are designed to serve a local, state, or regional community.

**Youth:** These projects have a focus on children, teenagers or young adults.

**Political:** This category celebrates collaborative political leadership, problem solving, and campaigns.

# Conference Agenda

Day 2 (continued)

October 18<sup>th</sup>

**12:30pm - 1:05pm**

*Salon I, J, K*

**Lunch**

**1:05pm - 1:50pm**

*Liberty Salon L and M*

**Session #8:** Citizen of the Year

**Presenter of Award:** Sally Prouty, Former NCoC Chief Executive Officer

**Recipient:** Mack McCarter, Community Renewal International

The Citizen of the Year Award is named in honor of NCoC's long-time chairman, Joseph H. Kanter. It aims to recognize the extraordinary contributions of an individual in furthering the cause of civic engagement and democratic practice.

*Previous recipients include David Rubenstein, Jack Miller, Steve and Jean Case, and Rick Stengel.*

**1:55pm - 2:55pm**

*Liberty Salon L and M*

**Session #9:** A Shark Tank for Civic Entrepreneurs

**Presenters:**

**Meredith McGehee**, Issue One

**Manu Meel**, BridgeUSA

**Ben Gubits**, American Promise

**Zaneeta Daver and Jennifer Domagal-Goldman**,

All-in Campus Democracy Challenge

**Tom Flanagan**, The Institute for

21st Century Agoras

**Emma Humphries**, iCivics

**Scott Greytak**, RepresentUS

How to fix our Democracy? Hear how seven different leaders argue why their approach gives us the best chance.

**2:55pm - 3:10pm**

*Salon I, J, K*

**Networking / Coffee Break**



**IT'S YOUR DEMOCRACY!**

# Conference Agenda

Day 2 (continued)

October 18<sup>th</sup>

**3:10pm - 3:55pm**

*Liberty Salon  
L and M*

**Session #10:** Democracy Rx: Civic Health Partners

Moderated by: **Lattie Coor**, Center for the Future of Arizona

**Matt Daley**, Kentucky Secretary of State Office

**Susan Nold**, The University of Texas at Austin

**Kristi Tate**, Center for the Future of Arizona

**Shawn Healy**, McCormick Foundation

See how partners are going beyond the Index to transform their communities.

**4:00pm - 4:15pm**

*Liberty Salon L and M*

**Video:** Civility TV

**Carolyn J. Lukensmeyer**, National Institute for Civil Discourse

**4:15pm - 4:55pm**

*Liberty Salon L and M*

**Session #11:** A National Strategy for Civic Renewal

**Presenters:**

**Debilyn Molineaux**, Bridge Alliance

**David Nevins**, Bridge Alliance

Report from the Bridge Alliance Summit that occurred on 10.17.18.

**4:55pm - 5:00pm**

*Liberty Salon L and M*

**Closing Remarks / Conference Reflection**

# NCoC Board of Directors

## Garrett M. Graff (Chair)

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Garrett M. Graff, the board chair of the National Conference on Citizenship, is a distinguished magazine journalist and historian and has spent more than a dozen years covering politics, technology, and national security. Today, he serves as the director of the Aspen Institute's cybersecurity and technology program, and is a contributor to WIRED, Longreads, and CNN. He's written for publications from Esquire to the New York Times, and served as the editor of two of Washington's most prestigious magazines, Washingtonian and POLITICO Magazine, which he helped

lead to its first National Magazine Award, the industry's highest honor.



Graff is the author of multiple books, including *The First Campaign: Globalization, the Web, and the Race for the White House*, which examined the role of technology in the 2008 presidential race, and *The Threat Matrix: The FBI At War*, which traces the history of the FBI's counterterrorism efforts. His most recent book, *Raven Rock*, about the government's Cold War Doomsday plans, was published in May 2017.

## Barry Byrd

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Barry Byrd is a partner at the law firm of Pineiro Byrd PLLC, in Jupiter, Florida, specializing and Board Certified in real estate law. Barry is a graduate of Stetson University and the Stetson College of Law. He has practiced for over 30 years. Barry has served on boards of several publicly traded companies, held leadership positions in numerous community

organizations and served as president of the Northern Palm Beaches Chamber of Commerce. He currently chairs the Abacoa Partnership for Community and serves as a director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County.



## Dr. Lattie Coor

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Dr. Lattie Coor founded the Center for the Future of Arizona in 2002 with the goal of creating an Arizona in which there are opportunities and quality of life for all citizens, now and in the future. Under his direction, the center has focused upon collaborative initiatives such as creating

a unified state vision and action plan, and implementing the Beat the Odds research findings in Arizona K-12 schools. He also is the Ernest W. McFarland Arizona Heritage Chair in Leadership and Public



Policy and a professor of public affairs at Arizona State University. Dr. Coor is a highly regarded Arizona statesman and esteemed president emeritus of Arizona State University (1990-2002)

and the University of Vermont (1976-1989). As president of ASU, Dr. Coor elevated the university's status as a major research institution with high-quality academics and a diverse student body.

## Phil Duncan

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Phil Duncan serves on the Falls Church, Virginia, City Council and is president of Civicatalyst Communications, a consulting firm focusing on civic participation and education. A native of East Tennessee, Phil is a graduate of Davidson College, where he edited the student newspaper. He worked at The Charlotte Observer and The Knoxville News Sentinel, then for twenty years at Congressional Quarterly as a politics reporter and editor. He served four years as executive director of NCoC. Prior to his 2012 election to City Council, Phil was a founding board member of the

Falls Church Education Foundation, chairman of the City Schools' Business in Education Partnership, and vice chairman of the Falls Church Chamber of Commerce, receiving its "Pillar of the Community" award in 2001. Phil is President of the Duncan Educational Fund, Inc., which assists exceptional students in Scott County, Tenn., where his grandmother was a longtime teacher. He and his wife Leslie have a daughter and a son.



## Paula Ellis

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Paula Ellis, a former Knight Foundation officer, senior publishing executive and journalist, has long been a leader in journalism innovation and community engagement. She has decades-long experience in the for-profit, nonprofit and government sectors. As vice president for strategic initiatives at the Knight Foundation, Ellis shaped the "informed and engaged" strategy, shifted the evaluation focus and launched a series of initiatives that would become signature efforts. Ellis began her career as a journalist at several metropolitan newspapers. In 1980, she joined Knight Ridder Inc. where she worked

for 26 years rising through the ranks as an editor, publisher and vice president/operations of the Fortune 500 firm she helped sell in 2006. Known for innovation and collaboration, Ellis often was tapped to lead key strategic efforts. A respected national journalist, she also delivered operational excellence. The Sun News in Myrtle Beach was Knight-Ridder's top performing news organization for five of the seven years she led it.

Ellis is a trustee of the Poynter Institute for Media Studies, a member of the



Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, and board member of Grassroots Grantmakers and the Philip Merrill College of Journalism (University of Maryland) board of visitors.

Ellis earned a bachelor's degree in

government and politics at the University of Maryland, where she was editor of the nation's best student daily. She graduated from Northwestern University with a master's degree in journalism and has been an adjunct faculty member at several universities.

## Eric K. Federing

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Eric K. Federing, of Maryland, serves as honorary director of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, which is focused on Washington, D.C.'s National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in World War II. Federing was a director of the Foundation from 2003 to 2013. He has been listed in Who's Who in America annually since 2000, served for a dozen years as a senior advisor in the United States Senate and House of Representatives, and is a graduate of George Washington University, Phi Beta Kappa.

Internationally, Eric founded the non-partisan Uni-Capitol Washington Internship

Programme in 1999, which he continues to direct pro bono and through which Australian university students are matched to select congressional offices annually for 2-month internships. On May 27, 2015, the Australian Government appointed Eric as a Member (honorary) in the Order of Australia. Professionally he is currently managing director at KPMG LLP, the global auditing, advisory and tax firm. He is a senior strategic advisor to the firm's management, practices, partners, and clients.



## Hon. Bob Graham

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One of the most accomplished politicians in Florida's history, Bob Graham never lost an election for office in more than four decades of public service at the local, state and national level. As first a state legislator, then governor and finally a three-term U.S. Senator, Graham has had a role in nearly every major public policy issue in modern Florida's history.

Having personally witnessed Florida's rise

from a predominantly rural Southern backwater to an economic and political juggernaut that is now the nation's fourth largest state, he created the Bob Graham Center in Public Service to continue his legacy of leadership and train the next generation of Sunshine State leaders.

At the University of Florida, he was



a political science major, and won some of the school's most prestigious awards including induction into the University of Florida Hall of Fame.

After graduating from Harvard Law School, Graham returned to his native Miami Lakes and won a seat in the Florida House of Representatives as part of a group of young progressive Democrats sympathetic to civil rights, public education and the environment. The group was known as the Doghouse Democrats, because their liberal credentials often landed them in the doghouse with the conservative

Democrats who controlled the state.

Graham was elected Florida's governor in 1978, and after serving two terms, Graham joined the U.S. Senate in 1987, carving out a career known not only for his grasp of domestic issues like Everglades restoration, immigration and off-shore drilling, but as a leading expert on foreign policy and intelligence.

One of Graham's most important contributions came during his last term, when he was named chairman on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

## Gail Leftwich Kitch

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Gail Leftwich Kitch is chief operating officer of The Voter Participation Center, a research-driven, results-oriented nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to increasing the participation of unmarried women, young people and minorities, historically underrepresented groups in our democracy. Most recently, she served as executive director of By the People, a MacNeil/Lehrer Productions project which uses public television to encourage and support informed non-contentious citizen dialogue around policy issues. Mrs. Kitch was president of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, the national membership organization of the state

affiliates of the National Endowment for the Humanities, following service as director of Cambridge Forum, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She is a former chair of the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, and was a Radcliffe College Public Policy Fellow in the late 90s. Among other activities, Mrs. Kitch currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Boards of the Women's Foreign Policy Group and National History Day. She has a B.A. from Bryn Mawr College and a J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School.



## A. G. Newmyer III

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A. G. Newmyer III, known as "Terry," is an active investor and management consultant. He was founder of U.S. Fiduciary Advisors, a network of highly-

trained individuals who serve as fiduciaries, and runs the firm's Palm Beach office.



For two decades starting in the early 1970's, he was an officer of Newmyer Associates, management consultants in Washington, D.C. Terry graduated with senior honors from Andover and earned his B.A., cum laude, at Yale.

He serves on a half-dozen non-profit and private sector boards. Much of his non-profit work is focused on the evolution of our nation's health care system.

## Craig Turk

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Craig Turk, of California, is a political consultant and screenwriter. Craig graduated from Harvard College with high honors, pursued graduate studies in politics at Oxford University, and earned his law degree, with honors, at Harvard. He served as chief counsel of John McCain's presidential campaign, and has practiced law in Washington and California. Craig

advises political parties in Europe and Asia, as well as domestically. He has advised the Sam Rainsy Party in Cambodia and the Government of Montenegro. He has also written for television shows including "Law & Order." Craig is a board member of the Epilepsy Foundation in Los Angeles.



## Michael Weiser (Chair Emeritus)

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Michael Weiser was elected chairman of the National Conference on Citizenship in January 2008. An investor and writer, Mr. Weiser is a frequent commentator on issues relating to finance, citizenship and community-building for The Washington Times, Miami Herald, Chicago Tribune, The Street.com and other media. Mr. Weiser serves as a general partner of

Lowell Associates, LP, a private investment partnership. A former financial journalist and communications consultant, Mr. Weiser received a Bachelor's in Journalism from the University of Missouri. He resides in New York City and Miami with his wife, Julie Greiner Weiser.



# NCoC Staff

## Sterling Speirn

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Sterling Speirn was appointed chief executive officer by the Board of Directors in November 2017. He is the immediate past president and CEO of the Peninsula Community Foundation (now the Silicon Valley Community Foundation), and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF). Before his career with community and private foundations, Mr. Speirn got started in corporate philanthropy leading the Community Grants program at Apple Computer.

From these philanthropic platforms, Mr. Speirn has been a long-time investor in efforts to promote civic and community engagement as well as service and volunteering. He has championed support for local and national dialogues in partnership with organizations such as America Speaks, the National Center for Deliberative Democracy, Public Agenda, the Harwood Institute, Everyday Democracy, and many others.

At PCF he founded the Center for Venture Philanthropy, created the Peninsula Partnership for Children, Youth and Families, and launched the Raising a Reader take-home book program which today operates in 34 states at 2,700 sites serving more than 125,000 children

annually. Also during this time, Mr. Speirn taught a seminar on philanthropy at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, and PCF's innovations in donor services were profiled in a Harvard Business School Case Study.

At WKKF he helped launch America Healing, a five-year, \$75 million initiative to support programs that promote racial equity and address structural racism. He was a champion for early childhood education, and worked to expand and integrate the pioneering legacy of food systems work that built the food movement in the United States. He promoted civic and community engagement in alignment with place-based philanthropy, and helped create a \$100 million Mission Driven Investment Fund that built a portfolio of private double bottom line investments in alignment with the foundations programmatic and place-based focus areas.

He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Greater Washington Community Foundation and is a member of the Racial Equity Working Group of the Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers.



# NCoC Staff (continued)

## Jeff Coates

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As Director of Research, Jeff Coates is responsible for organizational priorities that include conducting research, performing data analysis as part of the Civic Health Index initiative, and evaluation of programs. His prior experience in disaster relief and long-term recovery has given him the knowledge of various fields including community development, civic engagement, and economic development.

He previously worked at the Knight Foundation as Strategic Initiative Associate from 2010 to 2013, where he managed grants totaling over \$20 million including supporting Knight's Soul of the Community project. He also co-founded the Recovery Action Learning Laboratory

(RALLY) Foundation, a New Orleans-based nonprofit that monitored and evaluated post-disaster programs. He has worked in disaster recovery in Sri Lanka, where he worked with the Government of Sri Lanka in assessing food distribution to internally displaced people following the 2004 Tsunami.

Coates was also a Peace Corps volunteer stationed in Guyana. Jeff earned a Bachelor of Arts in anthropology from the University of Oklahoma and a Master of Public Health from Tulane University in New Orleans.



## Lisa Matthews

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Lisa Matthews, program director, was appointed to her position in October 2016 to support the Board of Directors and staff in advancing the Civic Health Initiative and its Civic Health Index (CHI) program. Additionally, Matthews provides support to the Annual Conference on Citizenship and year-round activity designed to advance the NCoC mission of Strengthening Civic Life in America.

In addition to more than 20 years of experience as a research analyst for a

nonprofit association, Matthews is a volunteer at the local, state and national levels focused on issues related to empowering individuals with disabilities, capacity building and economic development.

Matthews was recently appointed by Mayor Muriel Bowser to serve as chair of the DC Developmental Disabilities Council.

Matthews is listed in the 2017-2018 publication of Who's Who in America.



# NCoC Staff (continued)

## Angela Holden

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Angela Holden has over seven years of administrative experience supporting a variety of organizations in the field of media, construction and healthcare. Previously, Angela served as an executive assistant for a nonprofit organization that helped underserved populations gain access to much needed healthcare services. Angela completed her Associate's Degree in Business Administration and

is currently pursuing her Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration. Each year, Angela volunteers for a summer program that provides adaptive surfing for people with spinal cord injuries. In her free time, Angela enjoys reading, hot yoga and traveling to new places.



## Honorees

### Brenda "Sue" Fulton

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Sue Fulton is a 1980 West Point graduate, part of the first class to admit women. She was commissioned in the Army, served as a platoon leader and company commander in Germany, and was honorably discharged at the rank of Captain. In 2009, she co-founded Knights Out, the organization of LGBT West Point alumni and allies, and a year later became a founding board member of OutServe, the association of actively-serving LGBT military members; in both roles she was an active advocate for the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." As President of SPARTA, she played a leading role in lifting the military's ban on transgender service in 2013.

In July 2011 she was appointed by President Obama as the first openly gay member of the West Point Board of Visitors, and became the first female USMA graduate to chair the Board in 2015. In 2017, she was appointed to

the Board of Visitors for the National Defense University in Washington, DC; she was also recognized as one of NBC Out's first #Pride30, a list of innovators, changemakers, and rising stars.

In 2018, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy nominated Fulton to be Chair & Chief Administrator of the state's Motor Vehicle Commission, the first openly gay member of the Cabinet. Recently, she was appointed to the State Ethics Commission, and joined the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) Board of Directors.

In December, 2012, after 17 years together, Fulton and her partner Penny Gnesin became the first same-sex couple to marry in the West Point Cadet Chapel. They live in Asbury Park, NJ.



## G. S. “Mack” McCarter, III

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Mack is founder and coordinator of Community Renewal International. A native of Shreveport, LA, Mack holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in religion from Texas Christian University and a Master of Divinity Degree from Brite Divinity School. He served as a pastor for 18 years in Texas before returning to Shreveport in 1991 to begin implementing his vision for community renewal. CRI was formally organized in 1994 and under Mack’s leadership has grown into an organization which has received national and international recognition for its life-changing impact.

On October 30, 2014, Community Renewal International celebrated their 20 year anniversary. Former President Jimmy Carter honored Community Renewal

with his keynote address and daylong tour of their healing work and progress.



In 1967, Mack married his wife Judy, whom he met while they were students at TCU. Mack and Judy have two children, David and Nancy, and have four grandchildren. David and his wife, Kelli, live in Shreveport, LA with their three children, Kate, Collin, and Emma Clair; daughter Nancy also lives in Shreveport with her daughter Jacqueline.

Mack currently divides his time between Shreveport, LA and Washington, DC, where he is working diligently with former Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable John H. Dalton, creating Community Renewal Capital Area.

# Keynote Speaker Bios

## Deborah Fallows

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Deborah Fallows is a writer and a linguist. She has written on language, education, families and work, China, and travel for the Atlantic, National Geographic, Slate, the New York Times, the Washington Post, and the Washington Monthly. Her 2010 book, *Dreaming in Chinese: Mandarin Lessons in Life, Love, and Language*, is based on her three-year experience living and working in China. Most recently, she was a senior research fellow at the Pew Research Center and before that, director of data architecture for Oxygen Media. Previously, she was assistant dean and assistant

director of admissions at Georgetown University.

Fallows has an AB from Harvard University and a PhD in theoretical linguistics from the University of Texas at Austin.

For the past four years, Deborah and her husband, James, have been traveling through small-town America and reporting on innovation. Their national best-selling book on the project, *Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America*, was published by Pantheon in 2018.



## James Fallows

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James Fallows is a long-time correspondent for the Atlantic. He has reported from around the world since the 1970s, including extended assignments in China, Japan, Southeast Asia, Europe, and within the United States in Texas, Washington State, and California. He has written 12 books and has won the National Book Award, the National Magazine Award, and a documentary Emmy. His work has also appeared in many other magazines and as public radio commentaries. Mr. Fallows studied American history and literature at Harvard University and economics at the University of Oxford as a Rhodes

scholar, and worked for two years in the White House as President

Carter's chief speechwriter.

He has been part of the program design team for Microsoft Word and is the founding chairman of New America. For the past several years, he and his wife, Deborah, have been traveling through small-town America and reporting on innovation. Their national best selling book on the project, *Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America*, was published by Pantheon in 2018.



# Speaker Bios

## John C. Bonifaz

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John Bonifaz is the Co-Founder and President of Free Speech For People, a national campaign that works to renew our democracy and our United States Constitution for we the people, not big money and corporate interests. Free Speech For People (FSFP) challenges corruption at the highest levels of our government; catalyzes and advances the movement to amend the U.S. Constitution to overturn the Supreme Court's Citizens United and Buckley v. Valeo rulings and the fabrication of corporate constitutional rights; and engages in legal advocacy in the courts to confront the doctrines underlying the Citizens United and Buckley decisions.

John Bonifaz previously served as the executive director and general counsel of the National Voting Rights Institute (NVRI), an organization he founded in 1994. Mr. Bonifaz also previously served as the legal director of Voter Action, a national election integrity organization.

Mr. Bonifaz has been at the forefront of key voting rights battles in the United States for more than two decades: pioneering a series of court challenges, applying political equality principles, that have helped to redefine the campaign

finance question as a basic voting rights issue of our time; initiating and leading a legal strategy for revisiting Buckley v. Valeo in the courts; leading the fight in the federal courts in Ohio for a recount of the 2004 presidential vote in that state; and prevailing in federal court in Pennsylvania on the eve of the 2008 election in an emergency paper ballot case. He is the co-author with former American University Law Professor and now Congressman Jamin B. Raskin of two seminal law review articles (Yale Law & Policy Review-1993 and Columbia Law Review-1994) and of The Wealth Primary: Campaign Fundraising and the Constitution, published by the Center for Responsive Politics in 1994, all of which argue that the current campaign finance system violates the Equal Protection rights of non-wealthy candidates and voters.

Mr. Bonifaz is a 1992 cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School and a 1999 recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. He has written and spoken extensively across the country on pressing democracy and voting rights issues facing the nation today.



# Speaker Bios (continued)

## Nate Braisted

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Nate Braisted is a 9th grader at Zion Chapel High School in Jack, Alabama. It is Braisted's desire to attend Auburn

University and earn a degree in Civil Engineering or Journalism, while also playing baseball for the Tigers.

## Brian Clancy

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Brian Clancy is Founder and CEO of Big Tent Nation. Among other career adventures, he led the team that launched Fidelity.com and was responsible for systems planning and analysis at the world's largest investment management organization. He also has a strong social entrepreneurship track record that includes co-founding the Center for Financial Inclusion. The Center has

become a global thought leader in microfinance and has partners and funders that include the Gates Foundation, McKinsey, Harvard Business School and the World Bank. He also has experience in the rough and tumble world of city and state politics through his tenure as president of the Boston Public Library Foundation.



## Gage Connell

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Gage Connel is a 12th grader at Walter Wellborn High School in Anniston Alabama. Connell plans to major in

political science while in college and go on to law school to become a lawyer.

## Matt Daley

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Matt Daley is currently the state director for Kentucky Secretary of State, Alison Grimes. Matt is a proud Eastern Kentuckian and has his Master's in Public Administration. He has overseen critical civic research and initiatives for the Office of Secretary of State. Beyond working with all of Kentucky's elected officials, corporations,

and non-profits, he travels frequently with Sec. Grimes to promote civic participation. Matt has also been involved in Kentucky politics as both a consultant and as a campaign manager for over a decade.



# Speaker Bios (continued)

## Zaneeta Daver

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Zaneeta Daver, director of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, has close to 20 years of experience in post-secondary education. Dedicated to ensuring success for all students, Ms. Daver is committed to educating the whole student, inside and outside the classroom. She is passionate about civic engagement, social justice, and intercultural competency.

Prior to joining Civic Nation, Ms. Daver served in various roles at the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, the New Leadership Alliance for Student Learning and Accountability,

and NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.

She worked directly with college students at Ramapo College, Baruch College, Rutgers University, the University of Miami, and the University of Maryland College Park.

She received her MA in higher education administration from New York University and completed her BS in marketing from Penn State. Ms. Daver has completed all coursework in the college student personnel doctoral program at the University of Maryland.



## Brianna Davis

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Brianna Davis is a 9th grader at Zion Chapel High School in Jack, Alabama. Davis is working toward attending

the University of Alabama and AUB to pursue a degree in radiology.

## Jennifer Domagal-Goldman

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Dr. Jennifer Domagal-Goldman currently serves as the associate director at ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. Prior to joining the challenge, Dr. Domagal-Goldman served as the national manager of the American Democracy Project, a national civic learning and democratic engagement network of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU).

Dr. Domagal-Goldman serves on the editorial board of the eJournal of Public Affairs. She has contributed to a number

of civic engagement publications including co-authoring chapters in *Reimagining Democratic Societies: A New Era of Personal and Social Responsibility* (2013), *Becoming a Steward of Place: Four Areas of Institutional Focus* (2014), and *Student Civic Outcomes in Service Learning: Conceptual Frameworks and Methods* (2017). She also contributed to *Higher Education's Role in Enacting a Thriving*



*Democracy: Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Theory of Change* (2018).

Dr. Domagal-Goldman earned her doctorate in higher education from the Pennsylvania

State University. She received her master's degree in higher education and student affairs administration from the University of Vermont and a bachelor's degree from the University of Rochester.

## Tom Flanagan

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Tom Flanagan grew up in a small New England town of 15,000. He was drawn to the natural world and charted a path through college in marine biology, then in natural systems biology, and ultimately into the field of neuroscience, where he earned his PhD and began his research career. His quest for discovery and his search for unity drew him into investigations of collaborative process. A high profile stop along the way included a combined MBA and MSc degree through the Sloan School of Management at MIT. His collaborative work has been punctuated with roles as a group leader in an artificial organ development company, a founding team member in physicians' office diagnosis product company based in Europe, a range of teaching roles, and a growing recognition of his capacity to support complex collaboratives. Tom's path took a decidedly social turn when he was recruited to lead a state-wide university-government-industry collaborative program in Massachusetts.



A decade later Tom was asked to help an international group of systems scientists develop an organization for promoting inclusive collaborative design in response to complex sociotechnical challenges. This mission included project management work in a partnership launch for the World Health Organization. The partnership needed to solidify its commitment to a 20-year program to eliminate elephantiasis through a global community of some 70 nations. The core social technology for design dialogue was developed and refined through a 40-year history of codified practice in corporate settings. It is now searching for fertile soil in the democracy movement within civic sectors. Tom leads this civic effort at the board level within the Institute for 21st Century Agoras, where he serves as a collaborative design manager, process researcher, and author of peer-reviewed articles and monographs.

## Mark Gerzon

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Mark Gerzon has been working on the transpartisan frontier for the last twenty-five years. Since he designed and facilitated the Bipartisan Congressional Retreats in the late 1990s, he has facilitated numerous cross-party dialogues



and trainings. He is the president of Mediators Foundation, one of the leading incubators for civic conflict transformation projects in America today. In *Leading Through*

Conflict, he described the tools that cross-boundary leaders use to build bridges across divides. And in his most recent

book, *The Reunited States of America*, he profiles bridge-building citizens and organizations that are “reuniting America.”

## Ben Gubits

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A native of Colorado, Ben joined American Promise with a background both in business and in organizing, public policy and Citizen education and engagement. Before helping to launch American Promise, Ben was Regional Field Director in a 2014 gubernatorial campaign, and has been an organizer in several federal

and local campaigns. He is a graduate of Fort Lewis College in Colorado, and is currently a candidate for his Master’s in Political Science and Public Administration at Suffolk University in Boston.



## Jenny Gonzalez

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Jenny Gonzalez is a 17-year-old who has been part of the Vote16DC and Vote16USA campaigns since fall 2017. She is passionate about lowering the voting age and believes it would better the community and allow the youth of the city

to have a greater voice in their community. Born in DC, Jenny has a deep understanding of the local issues she cares most about.



## Scott Greytak

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Scott Greytak serves as Senior Counsel for RepresentUs, where he leads the organization’s legal advocacy work and helps design and defend anti-corruption ballot initiatives and legislation. Prior to joining RepresentUs, Scott worked as a public defender, litigated civil rights cases

in private practice, and authored *The New Politics of Judicial Elections*, a biennial report on the influence of money and politics on judicial elections.



## Shawn Healy

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Dr. Shawn Healy leads the Robert R. McCormick Foundation Democracy Program, which strengthens democracy in Illinois through informed and engaged individuals and communities, and

responsive systems of government. Dr. Healy currently serves as its director.



Healy recently chaired the Illinois Task Force on Civic Education and led the successful push for a required high school civics course in Illinois. He also led the Illinois Social Science Standards Task Force in 2014-2015. Its recommendations were adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education in June 2015.

Before joining the McCormick Foundation, he served as a social studies teacher at

West Chicago (IL) Community High School and Sheboygan North (WI) High School. A 2001 James Madison Fellow from the State of Wisconsin, he holds a MA and PhD from the University of Illinois at Chicago in political science and earned a bachelor's degree with distinction in Political Science, History and Secondary Education from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Healy's doctoral dissertation is titled "Essential School Supports for Civic Learning."

## Fred Hinojosa

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Fred Hinojosa is in the 12th grade at Oneonta High School in Oneonta, Alabama. After high school, he plans to major in

economics and pursue a degree in law.



## Gabby Huffman

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Gabby Huffman is in the 12th grade at Etowah High School in Attalla, Alabama. Her plans after high school are to attend a 4-year university where she will

major in pre-med and then go to medical school to specialize in pediatric oncology.



## Emma Humphries

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Emma Humphries is the Chief Education Officer at iCivics, an educational non-profit dedicated to reinvigorating civic learning through interactive and engaging learning resources, including online games. Emma serves as the organization's pedagogical expert, leads the curriculum team, and supports teachers in deepening

their engagement with iCivics' products so they may provide transformative classroom experiences for all students. She earned her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Florida with an emphasis in civics.



## Caroline Klibanoff

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Caroline Klibanoff is director of digital strategy for Big Tent Nation and a member of the Bridge Alliance team. After graduating from Georgetown University with degrees in American Studies and Film & Media Studies, she joined the Pew Research Center's communications team and worked in video production for the FrameWorks Institute. She has an M.A. in Public History from Northeastern University,



and has helped bring multimedia, social media and public programming to cultural institutions including the MIT Museum, the Cambridge Historical Society, and Northern Light Productions. Caroline is dedicated to listening to, engaging and supporting the voices of the American people (and those living here) in charting the country's future.

## Karen Lieberman

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Karen Lieberman, PhD, R.D., retired from college teaching in 2014 (Purdue University NC: 1988-2000; Johnson & Wales University, North Miami campus: 2000-2014) and now lives in St. Petersburg, FL. Her teaching coursework included nutrition, various food-oriented classes and food service sanitation. At present, she does contract editing work, takes care of her grandchildren (Caleb, 7 years and Liana, 5 years) and is a community activist.

In addition, along with her husband Bruce Nissen, son Jared, and her brother Gary Lieberman, she co-directs the Leif Nissen Foundation, which was created to honor her son Leif, who died in an auto accident in Nov 2008. The foundation supports progressive causes around the world. In 2013, the foundation created the Leif Nissen Social Justice Lecture Series at Temple Beth-El in St Petersburg. Previous lecturers include author Sasha Abramsky, NYC Congresswoman Elizabeth Holtzman, author and NPR media correspondent Eric Deggans, Mary Beth Maxwell, Deputy Chief of Staff for President Obama



and many more.

Lieberman was the Lead Organizer for the Coalition for Campaign Finance Reform in St. Pete and was very involved in the passage of the "Protect our Democracy" ordinance in St Petersburg. The coalition was comprised of 30 local and national organizations. The ordinance, which passed on October 5th, 2017, included two segments for St Pete elections: (1) abolishing super PACs and (2) limiting donations by foreign corporations. The ordinance became law on January 1, 2018. If it is challenged, it will go to the US Court of Appeals Eleventh Circuit. If it is upheld in the Eleventh Circuit and then appealed, it will go to the U.S. Supreme Court. Because of this trajectory, the case has the potential to take a big bite out of Citizen's United.

Other current community work: League of Women Voters St Pete, chair, social justice group, interfaith work around homelessness and affordable

housing, organizing for gun safety laws and the repeal of Stand Your

Ground, issue-based canvassing and aiding progressive candidates.

## Dr. Carolyn J. Lukensmeyer

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Dr. Carolyn J. Lukensmeyer is the Executive Director of the National Institute for Civil Discourse, an organization that works to reduce political dysfunction and incivility in our political system. As a leader in the field of deliberative democracy, she works to restore our democracy to reflect the intended vision of our founding fathers.

Dr. Lukensmeyer previously served as Founder and President of AmericaSpeaks, an award-winning nonprofit organization that promoted nonpartisan initiatives to engage citizens and leaders through the development of innovative public policy tools and strategies. During her tenure, AmericaSpeaks engaged more

than 200,000 people and hosted events across all 50 states and throughout the world.

Dr. Lukensmeyer formerly served as Consultant to the White House Chief of Staff from 1993-94 and on the National Performance Review where she steered internal management and oversaw government-wide reforms. She was the Chief of Staff to Ohio Governor Richard F. Celeste from 1986-91, becoming the first woman to serve in this capacity. She earned her PhD in Organizational Behavior from Case Western Reserve University and has completed postgraduate training at the Gestalt Institute of Cleveland.



## Meredith McGehee

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Meredith McGehee serves as the Executive Director at Issue One. She was previously Chief of Policy, Programs & Strategy, and before that, an adviser to Issue One. McGehee leads Issue One's advocacy efforts, as well as recruitment of former elected officials and business leaders.

Prior to joining Issue One, McGehee was policy director at the Campaign Legal Center where she directed the legislative and media policy efforts.

She is sought out in the media as an honest broker and veteran policy expert, who holds both parties accountable to the

same standards, whether she is discussing the questionable practices of the Clinton Foundation, the Obama administration's unwillingness to spend political capital on reforms or President Trump's reverse-course on draining the swamp. She is frequently quoted in national newspapers including The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal and Bloomberg. She has also appeared on national news shows, including ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox News, CNN, Bloomberg TV, C-SPAN and



MSNBC. She speaks at universities and organizations around the country and has testified before Congress.

Prior to joining the Campaign Legal Center, McGehee spent decades working across the ethics and political reform landscape

both in Washington and in states around the country. She also worked on Capitol Hill for six years and served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Niger, West Africa and is a Phi Beta Kappa, cum laude graduate of Pomona College in California.

## Chloe Meadows

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Chloe Meadows is a 9th grader at Zion Chapel High School in Jack, Alabama. Meadows plans to get a degree in

English/English Literature and teach on the High school or College level.

## Manu Meel

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Manu Meel is a junior at UC Berkeley and the CEO of BridgeUSA, a national student organization that aims to bridge the political divide on college campuses. After the Milo protests at Berkeley regarding free speech, Manu became passionate about affecting political change in different spheres of politics. An avid student

activist, he interned this past summer at AEI in Washington D.C. and also has worked at the Department of State as a political analyst in counterterrorism. Manu occasionally also writes for the Huffington Post and other media outlets.



## Debilyn Molineaux

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Debilyn Molineaux co-founded the Bridge Alliance to harness the exponentially growing field of organizations into a “game changing” movement that shifts the underlying dynamics of power, politics, and participation in our country. Molineaux works with the staff, board members and other leaders of Bridge Alliance members in advancing the common mission of all 80+ organizations. Molineaux brings a passion to her work that is contagious to all around her. Hailing from a conservative, agricultural community, she started her career as a small business owner,

working with community businesses to promote and grow their own operations through advertising and marketing. After engaging other women business leaders, Molineaux was inspired to become more active in the political process.

Her own personal experiences – as a small business owner, a local candidate for office, and an elected president of a national organization – have given her enormous insight into the challenges



facing citizens who want to get involved and organizations that want to scale their impact. In addition to her Bridge Alliance work, Molineaux continues to bring her insight to entities seeking to grow their participation and efficacy. She developed and serves as managing partner of Living Room Conversations, as an Advisor to Allsides.com and to

the Oregon-based Ingenuity Innovation Center. She most recently co-founded the National Conversation Project. Molineaux is an ontologically trained coach and is especially adept at guiding organizations in new ways to bring out hidden talents of volunteers and staff who become valuable assets.

## Tiffany Missembe

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Tiffany Missembe is a 16-year-old high school junior and a youth leader in the Vote16DC and Vote16USA campaigns. She joined Vote16 through her job with the Young Women's Project, a local organization that builds the leadership and power of young people in DC. She has spent the past several months meeting

with councilmembers, committees, media outlets, and peers about Vote16. She will continue advocating for this issue until 16-year-old voting becomes the law, and is very proud to be a leader of this cause.



## Skyler Nalley

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Skyler Nalley is a 12th grader at Zion Chapel High School in Jack, Alabama. Nalley wants to attend the University of South Alabama and pursue a

degree in Biomedical Science, and then pursue medical school in order to become an orthopedic surgeon.

## David L. Nevins

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David L. Nevins is one of the initial driving forces behind the Bridge Alliance and as president and co-director, he brings business acumen, vision and a tireless this-must-and-can-be-done zeal to the burgeoning movement to bridge divides to transform the political process. As a business leader, Nevins excels at building bridges between people and organizations from the right, left and center for civilized conversation and then

action. He co-founded the Bridge Alliance because, as he says, "No matter how well managed and how well funded anyone organization is, significant political reform will not happen without an alliance to further collaborative interactions. Together we can and will raise the collective impact of all."



He is a member of the Aspen Institute Society of Fellows, with a focus on the Aspen Rodel Fellowship in Public Leadership, he established and continues to work with The Nevins Democracy Leaders program at Penn State University.

Nevins graduated with honors in economics from Penn State in 1969 and received an M.B.A. in finance from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in 1971. He continues as President of Nevins Real Estate Management

## Susan Turner Nold

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Susan Turner Nold serves as director of the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life in the Moody College of Communication at the University of Texas at Austin (UT). At UT, Susan also serves as a senior lecturer in the Department of Communication Studies where she teaches a class on Communicating to Government.

Before joining the Strauss Institute, Nold was general counsel to Texas

Senator Kirk Watson and a staff attorney for the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission. Prior to working in the Texas Capitol, Nold practiced law as a litigation associate at Bracewell & Giuliani, volunteered as a congressional affairs liaison for a presidential campaign, and worked in development for a political committee in Washington D.C.



## Sally Prouty

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Sally Prouty is the former interim CEO for NCoC. She was appointed in December 2015 to assist the Board of Directors and staff in establishing strategic direction and vision for the organization. Prouty most recently served as interim director of Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement (PACE), where she supported the board of directors in planning for the future of the organization and provided leadership in its search for a new executive director. In 2012, after serving nearly a decade as president and CEO of The Corps Network, Prouty was appointed as the inaugural PACE Fellow to provide thought leadership and guidance on their 'Civic Pathways out of Poverty' project. PACE is a learning collaborative of funders doing

work in the fields of civic engagement, service, and democratic practice.

In addition to 30 years in the public and private sectors, including administrative and faculty positions as a nurse, Prouty has held volunteer positions at the local, state, national, and international levels including service on a city board of education and on the founding board of a charter school. She currently serves on the advisory board for Community Renewal International. A registered nurse, Prouty also holds a degree in Organizational Communication from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio.



# Speaker Bios (continued)

## Alik Schier

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Alik Schier got involved with Vote16DC and Vote16USA in February of 2018, and believes it is time for his voice to be heard when it comes to local policymaking. He knows that decisions elected officials make influence his and his peers' lives every day, and wants to make sure young people are involved in those decisions.

Schier is looking forward to inspiring a new generation of young people who are the future leaders of this country.

When he's not working on Vote16, Schier works for a Kombucha company and as a Peer Educator for sexual health.



## Anne Snyder

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Anne Snyder is the director of The Character Initiative at The Philanthropy Roundtable, a program that seeks to help foundations and business leaders strengthen “the middle ring” of morally formative institutions in the United States. She is also a fellow at the Center for Opportunity Urbanism, a Houston-based think tank that explores how cities can drive opportunity for the bulk of their citizens, and a Senior Fellow at The Trinity Forum. From 2014 to 2017 Snyder worked for Laity Lodge and the H.E. Butt Family Foundation in Texas, and before that she worked at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, World Affairs Journal and The New York Times. She holds a Master's degree in journalism from Georgetown University and a B.A. in philosophy and international relations from Wheaton College (IL).

Snyder is a Contributing Editor to Comment Magazine, an advisor to Sea Dog Theater and serves as a trustee for the Center for Public Justice as well as the Hyde Park Institute at the University of Chicago. She has published in The Atlantic Monthly, The Washington Post, National Journal, City Journal, Philanthropy Magazine, Orange County Register, Houston Business Journal, The Institute for Family Studies, FaithStreet, Comment Magazine, Verily, Humane Pursuits and FareForward, and is currently finishing a book about the most effective character-forming (and citizen-making!) institutions alive today.



# Speaker Bios (continued)

## Kristi Tate

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Kristi Tate leads the Center for the Future of Arizona's Civic Health Initiatives. She has served in leadership roles for organizations focused on education, service, and civic engagement. Previously, Tate served with the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC), a congressionally chartered organization dedicated to strengthening civic life in America. Her focus at NCoC was on developing and leading partnerships for the Civic Health Index, which creates reports and initiatives designed to strengthen civic life in

communities across the country. Before joining NCoC, she served at Georgetown University's Center for Social Justice as director of the DC Schools Project. She has also directed programs for HandsOn Greater Phoenix and the Boys and Girls Club of Boston Charlestown Clubhouse. She has a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame and Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree from Georgetown University, with a focus on social and public policy.



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